

# Women New Jersey

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs

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Summer 2003

## Message From Governor McGreevey

Thank you for your advocacy on behalf of women. I share your commitment to moving forward on an aggressive women's agenda. As a state, we must understand the historic disparity in women's income, as well as the unique role of women grappling with healthcare demands, educational demands and working family demands. We must do more to ensure that women have access to business and development opportunities throughout the state. We must make government work for women. The Division of Women (DOW) serves as an axis point for these important issues.



Since entering office, we have worked hard to move ahead on women's issues in New Jersey -increasing outreach efforts on concerns critical to women throughout the state, and advancing women's rights by strengthening important legislation and protections.

In the last several months, we have implemented a number of laws and programs to empower New Jersey's women. I signed legislation that provides students of all ages with information and resources regarding domestic violence and child abuse. And I signed a resolution designating April as "Sexual Assault Awareness Month," dedicating an entire month to increasing public awareness and understanding of sexual violence and its prevention.

To help victims directly and immediately, I issued an Executive Order

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## Governor McGreevey Demonstrates Commitment to Domestic Violence Two New Bills Signed in April 2003



*In April, Governor James E. McGreevey signed legislation to protect victims of domestic violence from insurance discrimination and to educate New Jersey's children on the dynamics of domestic violence and child abuse. With him during one of the signings were (l to r) Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg (D-37), Bear Atwood, former director, Division on Women, Senator Barbara Buono (D-18), and Barbara Price, executive director, NJ Coalition for Battered Women.*

**G**overnor McGreevey demonstrated his commitment to protecting victims of domestic violence this spring by signing two new pieces of legislation – one protecting victims of domestic violence from insurance discrimination and one that provides for instruction to elementary, middle and high school students on the dynamics of domestic violence and child abuse.

On April 14, Governor McGreevey signed into law legislation protecting victims of domestic violence from insurance discrimination. The legislation, sponsored by Senators Barbara Buono and Joseph F. Vitale, Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg and Assemblyman Joseph V. Doria, prohibits property or life insurance companies from engaging in discriminatory practices against victims of domestic violence that reflect a "blame the victim" mentality. Such practices include coverage denials, restricting or limiting

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### NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS



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## Message From Commissioner Levin

Welcome to the summer edition of *Women New Jersey*, the Division on Women's newsletter. This edition of the newsletter focuses on the work the governor, Department of Community Affairs (DCA), DOW and all of you are doing to help and educate women and serve women in need.



DCA's Division on Women serves as a comprehensive source on a wide range of issues that are critically important to women, and Governor McGreevey and I are dedicated to providing women with the tools they need to learn, grow and succeed. That is why DCA and the Division on Women are working to develop a strong, progressive and pro-women legislative agenda for the State of New Jersey.

As a woman and a mother of two grown daughters, I also understand how critical it is to provide equal opportunities for all women. In fact, in the last several months, Governor McGreevey and I have made several strides by supporting programs to empower and educate New Jersey's women, including the Governor's Roundtable Series for Women.

Education and serving women in need are common themes throughout *Women New Jersey*. I encourage you to use these resources, become educated and be involved in making a difference for New Jersey's women.

Susan Bass Levin  
DCA Commissioner

## Governor McGreevey Demonstrates Commitment to Domestic Violence

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policy benefits, or adding premium differentials to policies for victims of domestic violence.

"Domestic violence is an especially destructive form of abuse because it wears a familiar face," said Governor McGreevey. "It is a terror that has turned too many homes into a place where women - as well as men, children and seniors - silently suffer from both physical and emotional abuse. Victims of domestic violence should not have to suffer anymore once they are free from their abusers." This legislation eliminates one more barrier to freedom from abuse.

On April 23, Governor McGreevey also signed into law legislation that provides for instruction to elementary, middle and high school students on the dynamics of domestic violence and child abuse. Senators Joseph F. Vitale and Robert J. Martin, and Assemblyman Nicholas Asselta sponsored this bill, which encourages boards of education to provide the instruction, enabling pupils to understand the psychology and dynamics of these problems, along with the relationship of animal cruelty, and to learn methods of non-violent problem solving. This bill embodies Recommendation #55 of the Report of the Assembly Task Force on Domestic Violence, issued in July 1998.

These two bills show an important advancement in New Jersey's fight against domestic abuse and demonstrate Governor McGreevey's commitment to making New Jersey safer for survivors of domestic violence.



**If you or someone you know is a victim  
of domestic violence or abuse,  
call 1-800-572-(SAFE) 7233.**

### Visit the Division on Women Online

[www.nj.gov/dca/dow](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dow)

Don't forget to use DOW's recently updated Web site as a source of information on the Division's programs, services, events, publications, resources and legislation.

In an effort to provide New Jersey's women with the most accurate and current information, we welcome your feedback and suggestions on our Web site. Please feel free to contact the Division on Women via e-mail at

[dow@dca.state.nj.us](mailto:dow@dca.state.nj.us)

or by phone at  
(609) 292-8840.



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# The Difference Women Are Making In The Lives Of New Jersey's Women

## Honoring New Jersey Women of Achievement

In celebration of Women's History Month, DCA's Division on Women and the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women held the Annual Women of Achievement Awards Luncheon. The luncheon immediately followed the first meeting of Governor McGreevey's Roundtable Series for Women on March 21 and honored a number of women for their contributions to New Jersey's women.

The New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women and the Division on Women awarded the first Wynona M. Lipman Award to four women from New Jersey who exemplified Senator Lipman's commitment to women and the community. Senator Lipman was the first African-American woman elected to the New Jersey State Senate, and her commitment to championing the causes of women, minorities and children opened doors and opportunities for thousands of women in New Jersey.

Honored this year with the Wynona M. Lipman award were:

■ **Hannah L. Dixon** of Atlantic County. Dixon is the former director of Zonta International – East Coast Area Three, which is an organization of executives in business and the professions working together to advance the status of women. She played a leading role in the charter formation of the Atlantic County Women's Hall of Fame, located in Atlantic City, which highlights the important contributions of women in Atlantic County. Having the vision to showcase the successes and accomplishments of Atlantic County's women shows her innovation and commitment to the advancement of women.

■ **Antoinette Griffith** of Burlington County. Griffith is the manager of Samaritan Hospice's Center for Grief Support where she facilitates support groups, including a group for women grieving the loss of their mothers. Her community service is demonstrative of Senator Lipman's



2003 Connie Woodruff Award recipient, Elizabeth Cox (r.), speaks at the awards ceremony.

and the reason she was chosen to be honored this year.

■ **Donna J. Martin** of Salem County. Martin has been a teacher and coach in the Pennsville Public School District for the past 25 years and has counseled countless young women on their potential to make a difference. Her commitment to Salem County's youth earned her this recognition.

■ **Nancy Ernst** of Ocean County. Ernst is a former municipal welfare director from Ocean County. When municipal welfare was consolidated into the county, Ernst became executive director of Caregivers of Lakewood. Her commitment to the older citizens of Ocean County earned her this recognition.

During this luncheon, the 2002 and 2003 Connie Woodruff awardees also were honored. Maxine L. Daniels was

presented with the 2002 Connie Woodruff Award, and Elizabeth L. Cox received the 2003 award.

The Connie Woodruff Award recognizes a New Jersey woman for her contributions to women of New Jersey. Connie Woodruff was the first chair of the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women.

■ **Maxine L. Daniels** is a retired educator from Monmouth County. In addition to her teaching tenure of more than 30 years, Daniels is active in civil rights, human relations, education and youth initiatives, religious, and entrepreneurial activities. Daniels' lifelong commitment to the women of New Jersey earned her this honor.

■ **Elizabeth L. Cox**, of Union County, served as an information specialist with the Division on Women and was the long-time Division on Women staff liaison to the New Jersey Advisory Commission, County and Municipal Commissions. Cox was an original member of the Union County Commission on Women and represented the old 9th district in Union County in the New Jersey General Assembly for an unexpired term in 1971. Cox's lifelong commitment to advance the rights of New Jersey's women through the state and the Union County Commission earned her this honor.

### Women of Achievement Awards

#### First Annual Wynona Lipman Award

*In Recognition of Service to Women  
in the Community*

#### 2003 Recipients

Hannah L. Dixon, Atlantic County  
Antoinette Griffith, Burlington County  
Donna J. Martin, Salem County  
Nancy Ernst, Ocean County

#### Connie Woodruff Award

*In Recognition of Service to Women  
in the State*

2002 Recipient  
Maxine L. Daniels

2003 Recipient  
Elizabeth L. Cox





## The Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey's 15th Annual Legislative Awards on May 8, 2003



*At the 15th Annual Legislative Awards reception, honorees and award recipients gather for photos following the ceremony. Standing (l to r) Jerilyn Kardos, honoree, Frances Miller, scholarship awardee, Sofia Bastidas, scholarship awardee, Beverly Shimada, honoree, and Ermine Plotkin, guest speaker who presented the poem, "Your Joy."*

### 2003 Honorees Selected for Outstanding Contributions to Women and Families:

Presented to individuals who have provided outstanding services at centers in Atlantic, Bergen, Burlington, Camden, Middlesex, Morris and Sussex Counties.

- Assemblyman Francis J. Blee, District 2
- Senator Barbara Buono, District 18
- Senator Joseph Coniglio, District 38
- Assemblyman Jack Connors, District 7
- Kathleen Cutis, Burlington County
- Jerilyn Kardos, Camden County
- Robert J. Lenrow, Esq., A.P.M., Bergen County
- Allison Little McHose, Sussex County
- Ellen Schwartz, Esq., Middlesex County
- Beverly Shimada, Morris County

### 2003 Award Recipients:

These scholarship awards were presented to nominated clients of various centers.

- Sofia Bastidas, Monmouth County
- Karen Hengge, Sussex County
- Lanette Jones, Middlesex County
- Frances Miller, Morris County
- Carolyn Spirito, Burlington County

## Serving Women Around the State

DCA's Division on Women (DOW) funds nonprofit agencies around the state to serve women's needs. The Camden County Council on Economic Opportunity's Urban Women's Center and Women's Referral Central are two of these resources.

### Urban Women's Center

The Urban Women's Center in Camden moved into its new building at 900 Broadway in March. The Center provides services from computer literacy to job training. DOW recently provided additional funding that allows the Center to purchase new computers, which expanded the number of classes they can hold and the number of women they can serve. Additionally, this building has six women's transitional housing apartments.

**Urban Women's Center**  
**(856) 365-8989**

### Women's Referral Central

Everyday, women ask for a variety of information from Women's Referral Central hotline. This hotline, funded by DOW, is dedicated to the needs of women throughout New Jersey. Last year, their telephone counselors responded to over 10,000 telephone calls on everything from legal assistance, employment and training to domestic violence, sexual assault and civil rights.

The highly trained and professional staff understands the unique problems currently facing women. The counselors were carefully selected and trained to address the needs of each caller. The counselors also utilize crisis intervention and active listening to help callers. The hotline's mission is not to judge or criticize, but to help each caller create a pathway to improve her life and relationships.

Women's Referral Central is always available to assist in finding the organization, support group or facility that will meet callers' needs. The Women's Referral Central philosophy is, "You do not have to stumble alone in the dark to find the help you need."

**Women's Referral Central**  
**1-800-322-8092**



# Spotlight on Programs

The Division on Women funds programs that assist women throughout New Jersey. Each issue of New Jersey Women will highlight the work of these successful programs.

## The Center for People in Transition in Gloucester County

"I found you for help when no one else would. You have been such an inspiration to me. God bless the amazing help to all women who come here." —CZ

**S**uddenly you are "zapped" with a situation similar to CS when her husband came home one day and announced that he wanted a divorce, leaving her to raise their three young children. Or, like Bridget, whose husband is suddenly killed in an automobile accident. Or similar to

Where does a woman turn when her life becomes a cataclysm?

The upheaval can be overwhelming as a woman experiences feelings of rejection, anger, sadness, fear, worry and despair, while simultaneously attempting to establish financial security and emotional stability for she and her children. Where

Mary, whose husband is undergoing treatments for terminal cancer and is unable to work.

can a woman turn? In Gloucester County, she can turn to The Center for People in Transition (PIT) Displaced Homemaker Center at Gloucester County College.

PIT assists women going through separation, divorce, death or disability of a spouse. The Center provides one-on-one counseling, as well as workshops on self-esteem, divorce recovery, forgiveness, bereavement, legal issues, referral sources and job readiness skills. PIT is grant-funded by DCA's Division on Women and the United Way, and services more than 150 displaced homemakers each year.

## PIT Community Job Fair

Recently, PIT joined forces with the Gloucester County College (GCC) Student Employment Services Office and Gloucester County Work Investment Board (WIB) in orchestrating and implementing their Annual Job / Career / Education Fair on April 10. Despite the rain, the fair turned out to be a tremendous success. The mezzanine and lobby of

the College Center at GCC were filled to capacity with 52 companies and training centers, and over 450 diverse job seekers.



More than 450 people turned out to explore the 52 companies and training centers for exciting employment opportunities.



Almarie Jones (l), GCC Co-Op director, and Jeanne LaBuz (r), PIT job developer, join job seekers in visiting corporations and training centers' booths at the annual job fair.

# Governor McGreevey Hosts Interactive Women's Roundtables Throughout the State

DCA's Division on Women has had the honor of hosting Governor James E. McGreevey's Roundtable Series for Women over the course of this spring and summer. The Governor's Roundtable Series is composed of six events for women throughout New Jersey, four of which are now complete and were great successes.

The four roundtables were on:

- March 21 at Douglass College Center's Traves Hall in New Brunswick for the residents of Middlesex, Monmouth, Union, Somerset and Mercer Counties.
- May 12, presented in partnership with WISE (Women in Support of Essex) Women's Center at Essex County College in Newark for Essex, Hudson and Union County residents.
- June 9, presented in partnership with the Northwest New Jersey Regional Women's Center at Centenary College in Hackettstown for residents of Warren, Sussex, Hunterdon and Morris Counties
- June 18 at Bergen Community College in Paramus for the residents of Bergen, Passaic and Morris Counties.

These successful events provided forums for discussion and identification of issues facing New Jersey's women. A variety of topics were discussed in break out sessions, led by leading women in related fields. The breakout sessions included:

- Economic Realities of Being a Woman, led by Mary L. Gatta, Ph.D., and Mary K. Trigg, Ph.D.
- Women in the Workplace: From the Sticky Floor to the Glass Ceiling, led by Victoria Rivera-Cruz, Esq., and Ileana Montes, Esq.
- The Next Generation: From the Sticky Floor to the Glass Ceiling, led by Amy E. Bain, Sasha Patterson and Marianne McConnell, Esq.
- Emerging Trends and Issues in Violence Against Women, led by Susan Fleisch, Patricia Hart and Deborah K. Shepherd, MSW, LSW.
- New Jersey's Aging Population: What Does it Mean for Women, led by Ileana Montes, Esq., and Sharon Rivenson Mark, Esq.

■ Education in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Barriers, led by Dianne A. McKay.

■ Women's Health Care: Evaluating Access, Information and Services, led by Jeannine LaRue, Maria Bitar, M.D., and Diane Abatemarco, Ph.D., MSW.

Hundreds of advocates from women's groups, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, corporations and universities participated in these roundtable events to discuss significant issues for the women of New Jersey under this year's theme of "Prioritizing for the Future."



*Governor McGreevey, Commissioner Levin and the Division on Women will continue to work together to empower and educate New Jersey's women about issues facing them today.*



*Commissioner Levin welcomes participants to a session of Governor James E. McGreevey's Roundtable Series for Women. Joined by panelists who are experts in their respective fields, these roundtables provide a forum for discussion and identification of issues facing New Jersey's women.*



# New Jersey Women Veterans Honored with Memorial

**F**riday, June 6 marked the 59th Anniversary of D-Day, and the New Jersey Advisory Committee for Women Veterans commemorated the day by dedicating a Women Veterans Monument at the Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery in North Hanover, Burlington County, New Jersey. The memorial was established to honor New Jersey's 24,000 female veterans.

The monument depicts a colonial era "Minutewoman" wearing traditional revolutionary war period clothing, carrying a weapon in one hand, holding a lantern in the other and shielding a child. The Minutewoman is boldly striding forward in defense of home and nation, protecting her family, while still keeping the lantern lit to show the way home. Emblems representing each of the five branches of the service - Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard - adorn a side of the monument's five-sided base, and the inscription reads: The Spirit of the American Woman Veteran.

The monument, was installed in the Memorial Walkway section of the cemetery, is the result of the combined efforts of the Advisory Committee and many private citizens who believed in the need for a lasting tribute to all New Jersey women veterans from all branches of service - and throughout all periods in our nation's history.



*Monument recognizing New Jersey's woman veterans, inscribed with "The Spirit of the American Woman Veteran."*

## Message From Governor McGreevey

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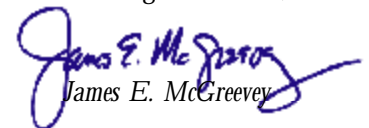
authorizing the state to determine the impact of substance abuse and domestic violence on children, and creating the Advisory Council Against Sexual Violence. This 25-member group will improve the overall quality of services offered to victims of sexual violence. In April, we enacted a bill that protects victims of domestic violence from insurance discrimination. And most recently, I signed new gun control legislation, which broadened the scope of previous legislation to include the expansion of the disqualifying offenses for purchasing a handgun so that more people are protected.

Domestic violence, sexual assault and gun crime - violence that most often targets women - must be addressed. Increased educational efforts, advocacy and outreach - coupled with strengthened legislative initiatives, will make New Jersey better, safer and stronger.

The Department of Community Affairs' Division on Women, under the leadership of Commissioner Susan Bass Levin, is hosting a series of Roundtables for Women across the state. Please make every effort to participate in these roundtables, which will pave the way for an upcoming Governor's Conference on Women. Our goal is to develop the strongest, most progressive, pro-women legislative agenda for the State of New Jersey.

Please read this edition of the Division on Women's newsletter carefully and thoughtfully. With your continued leadership and support, we are certain to make a profound difference.

With all good wishes,

  
James E. McGreevey

# Dates to Remember

Summer 2003

**Friday, July 25th**

**Governor's Roundtable Series for Women  
Camden County College  
Blackwood Campus  
Blackwood, NJ  
8:30 a.m. - noon**

**Monday, July 28th**

**Governor's Roundtable Series for Women  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
Pomona, NJ  
8:30 a.m. - noon**

For additional information on the Governor's Roundtable Events, contact  
the Division on Women at (609) 292-8840 or visit our

Web site at [www.nj.gov/dca/dow](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dow)

# Save The Date

**Women's Equality Day  
August 26, 2003**



*The "Portrait Monument" is a statue honoring three leaders who fought for women's suffrage - Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott.*

**For more details, contact the  
Division on Women  
at (609) 292-8840  
or visit our Web site at  
[www.nj.gov/dca/dow](http://www.nj.gov/dca/dow)**

**Division on Women Hotlines**  
Domestic Violence 1-800-572-SAFE (7233)  
Sexual Assault 1-800-601-7200  
Women's Referral Central 1-800-322-8092

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